

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT—COUNTY-WIDE HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

S. J. R. No. 2

Proposing an amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas by adding thereto a new section to be known as Section 4, by providing that the Legislature may authorize the creation of county-wide Hospital Districts in certain counties if approved by the qualified property taxpaying voters at an election held for that purpose within such District; prescribing the powers of such District; providing for the submission of the proposition to the qualified voters of the State of Texas at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of 1954; prescribing the form of ballot and providing for the necessary proclamation by the Governor and publication of notice.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto another section, to be designated as Section 4, which shall read as follows:

"Section 4. The Legislature may by law authorize the creation of county-wide Hospital Districts in counties having a population in excess of 190,000 and in Galveston County, with power to issue bonds for the purchase, acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of any county owned hospital, or where the hospital system is jointly operated by a county and city within the county, and to provide for the transfer to the county-wide Hospital District of the title to any land, buildings or equipment, jointly or separately owned, and for the assumption by the district of any outstanding bonded indebtedness theretofore issued by any county or city for the establishment of hospitals or hospital facilities; to levy a tax not to exceed seventy-five (\$.75) cents on the One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars valuation of all taxable property within such district, provided, however, that such district shall be approved at an election held for that purpose, and that only qualified, property taxpaying voters in such county shall vote therein; provided further, that such Hospital District shall assume full responsibility for providing medical and hospital care to needy inhabitants of the county, and thereafter such county and cities therein shall not levy any other tax for hospital purposes; and provided further that should such Hospital District construct, maintain and support a hospital or hospital system, that the same shall never become a charge against the State of Texas, nor shall any direct appropriation ever be made by the Legislature for the construction, maintenance or improvement of the said hospital or hospitals. Should the Legislature enact enabling laws in anticipation of the adoption of this amendment, such Acts shall not be invalid because of their anticipatory character."

Sec. 2. The foregoing Constitutional Amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified property taxpaying voters of this State at the General Election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1954, at which election all ballots shall have printed thereon:

"FOR the Constitutional Amendment granting power to the Legislature to pass laws authorizing the creation of county-wide Hospital Dis-

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tracts in any county having a population in excess of 190,000 and in Galveston County, and to levy a hospital tax"; and

"AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment granting power to the Legislature to authorize the creation of county-wide Hospital Districts in any county having a population in excess of 190,000 and in Galveston County, and to levy a hospital tax."

Sec. 3. The Governor shall issue the necessary proclamation for said election and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

Passed the Senate, April 6, 1953: Yeas 29, Nays 0; April 21, 1953, Senate refused to concur in House amendments, and requested appointment of Conference Committee; April 27, 1953, request granted; May 5, 1953, Senate adopted Conference Report: Yeas 28, Nays 0; passed the House, April 15, 1953, with amendments: Yeas 132, Nays 8; and 1 present not voting; April 27, 1953, House granted request of Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 6, 1953, House adopted Conference Report: Yeas 123, Nays 6. Approved May 14, 1953.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

S. J. R. No. 4

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas to provide a four year term of office for elective district, county and precinct offices; staggering the terms of such offices by having certain holders of such offices be elected for terms of varying length in the November, 1954, general election; and providing for the necessary proclamation and election.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Section 9 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 9. There shall be a Clerk for the District Court of each county, who shall be elected by the qualified voters for State and county officers, and who shall hold his office for four years, subject to removal by information, or by indictment of a grand jury, and conviction of a petit jury. In case of vacancy, the Judge of the District Court shall have the power to appoint a Clerk, who shall hold until the office can be filled by election."

Sec. 2. That Section 15 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 15. There shall be established in each county in this State a County Court, which shall be a court of record; and there shall be elected in each county, by the qualified voters, a County Judge, who shall be well informed in the law of the State; shall be a conservator of the peace, and shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. He shall receive as compensation for his services such fees and perquisites as may be prescribed by law."

Sec. 3. That Section 18 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 18. Each organized county in the State now or hereafter existing, shall be divided from time to time, for the convenience of the people, into precincts, not less than four and not more than eight. Divisions shall be made by the Commissioners Court provided for by this Constitution. In each such precinct there shall be elected one Justice of the Peace and one Constable, each of whom shall hold his office for four years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified; provided that in any precinct in which there may be a city of 8,000 or more inhabitants, there shall be elected two Justices of the Peace. Each county